

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 12, 2013
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OPERATION: SAFE SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS KEEPING KIDS SAFE DURING SUMMER VACATION

GLENDALÉ, Ariz. – “School’s out for summer!” has been exclaimed by many Valley children recently, but many parents aren’t as excited as their children about the long summer months. Keeping children entertained and occupied, as well as keeping them safe are top priorities once the school year is over. Some children will be staying home alone during the day and many will be out on neighborhood streets riding their bikes or skateboards and spending more time on the playground.

Glendale wants to remind residents that the city departments offer resources and programs to help make their jobs easier. One program offers a reasonable way to find activities for your child, providing them a safe and fun option with Glendale’s summer programs, either licensed day-care or free drop-in options.

Visit www.glendaleaz.com/parksandrecreation/afterschoolprograms.cfm for information or to register.

Here are additional tips for families on keeping kids safe this summer, whether they are home by themselves, out on the playground, riding their bikes, and more:

- If leaving children home alone, post your cell phone number and emergency numbers (police, fire, EMS, doctor and the poison control hotline, 800-222-1222) and a friend or neighbor’s number by every phone in the house. Also include your home address in case 9-1-1 needs to be called.
- Prepare a snack or meal in advance for the kid(s), preferably one that does not need to be heated.
- If your children will need to cook, have them use the microwave and go over the steps for using it, being mindful of microwave burns. They should use potholders to remove food, remove lids carefully to prevent steam burns and test food temperature before eating.
- Review your family’s emergency plans and make sure your children know what to do if the smoke alarm or carbon monoxide detector goes off. Practice two escape routes from each room.

~ more ~

Operation: Safe Summer/Kids

Add 1.1.1

- Show your children where you keep your first aid kit and how to use basic first aid supplies.
- Check playgrounds where your children play. Look for age-appropriate equipment and hazards, such as rusted or broken equipment and dangerous surfaces. Report any hazards to the school or appropriate local office. Playground equipment in the extreme heat can cause serious burns.
- Dress appropriately for the playground. Remove necklaces, purses, scarves or clothing with drawstrings that can get caught on equipment and pose a strangulation hazard. Even helmets can be dangerous on a playground, so save those for bikes.
- Bicycle/Skateboard/Scooter safety – make sure your children are wearing a helmet, no exceptions! Need to know how to fit your child's helmet properly? Check out http://www.glendaleaz.com/education/Transportation_Hemet.cfm
- With lots of free time, kids will have many opportunities to surf the web, but there are internet predators out there. Parents can help reduce these risks by talking to kids about making safe, responsible decisions, and monitoring the sites kids are visiting; also make sure you 'friend' or 'follow' your child on social networking sites so you can check who they are talking to and what they are posting. Get more info at: <http://www.glendaleaz.com/police/education.cfm>.

For more information on the city's Operation: Safe Summer campaign, visit

www.glendaleaz.com/safesummer. Additional resources and information are available at

www.usa.safekids.org.

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